

Harris Mill Storehouse
Northwest corner Main and Prospect Streets
Harrisville
Cheshire County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-172

HABS
N.H.
3-HAR
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: Northwest corner, Main and Prospect Streets, Harrisville, Cheshire County, New Hampshire. Geographic Location Code: 28 - 0213 - 005 Latitude: 42° 56' 45" N Longitude: 72° 05' 40" W (Approx. center, intersection of Main and Grove Streets.)

Present Owner: Cheshire Mills Co., Main Street, Harrisville, New Hampshire.

Present Occupant: Cheshire Mills Co.

Present Use: Storage.

Statement of Significance: Built c. 1832, this structure is a once common outbuilding for textile mills. It is somewhat atypical as a storage house in the relatively large number of windows it has.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Harris Mill Co.; c. 1832-1879. Cheshire Mill Co.; 1879-present (firm in receivership, as of first half of 1971).
2. Dates of erection: c. 1832.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Builder, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plan and construction: The building is built on a platform over the mill pond. It is two and one-half stories high, 50'-4" long, 32'-2" wide. The exterior walls are brick and interior is constructed of wood joists, flooring and posts.
6. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Armstrong, John Borden. "Harrisville: A New Hampshire Mill Town in the 19th Century." Ph.D. Dissertation, Boston University. (Microfilm copy on file at National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) See bibliography for complete list of unpublished sources.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Armstrong, John Borden. Factory Under the Elms. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston: 1969. This is the first book to be published on Harrisville. It is based on the Ph.D. Dissertation cited above.

Hellman, Peter. "A 'Williamsburg' That's Really Lived In," New York Times (Sunday, March 28, 1971), Section XX, pp. 7, 35.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Built c. 1832, this storehouse is a fine example of a once common textile mill's outbuilding.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 50'-4" x 32'-2"; two and one-half stories; rectangular in shape.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Load-bearing red brick, running bond, smooth surface.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick exterior walls. Light wood framing for interior floors and partitions.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Wooden entrance platform, southeast elevation.

6. Chimneys: Two (2).

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Wood frames in masonry openings; wood panelled doors.
- b. Windows and shutters: Wood frames and double-hung sash; number of lights varies from 12/12 (northwest elevation) to 2/1 (southeast elevation). There is a modified Palladian motif at the top service door over the main entrance, southeast elevation.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable, slate over wood plank and rafters.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves project 1'-8" from exterior face of brick walls.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Rectangular, open on the second floor and attic. On the first floor the area is divided into three rooms (two on the southeast and one on the northwest).
- 2. Stairways: One (1), west corner.
- 3. Flooring: Wood plank on wood joists.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls: first floor, plastered; second floor and attic, exposed brick. Ceilings: first floor, plastered; second floor and attic, exposed wood framing.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Wood frames, wood doors.
- 6. Special decorative features, trim: None.
- 7. Notable hardware: None.
- 8. Mechanical equipment: None.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting and orientation: The building is built along the south bank of the Mill Pond and the north portion of it projects out over the pond itself. The building is bounded

on the southwest and southeast by Main and Prospect Streets respectively.

Prepared by Robert M. Vogel and
Ted Sande
National Park Service
August 12-14, 1968;
July 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This building was recorded as part of the New England Textile Mill Survey II; which was sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service, and the Smithsonian Institution. The project was assisted by the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, North Andover, Mass.; the Fall River Historical Society; and the Bristol Community College, Fall River, Mass. It was the second of two summer surveys whose purpose was to record representative examples of the buildings of the New England textile industry.

The field work, historical research and record drawings were done in the summer of 1968 under the direction of Robert M. Vogel (Curator of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution), Project Director; Professor Melvin M. Rotsch (Architect, Texas A & M University), Project Supervisor; and David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), Peter S. Conrad (Yale University), Eric N. DeLony (Ohio State University), and Dennis W. Jacobs (University of Kansas), Student Assistant Architects.

Historic documentation and editing of the project data were done in the summer of 1971 by Ted Sande (Architect, University of Pennsylvania), under the auspices of the Historic American Engineering Record of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service.